

CLAIMS OF THE INVENTION

I CLAIM:

1. A method of issuing a voucher with a remote voucher generation device associated with a gaming system including a gaming machine and a host, comprising the steps of:

generating data regarding a voucher to be printed;

creating a record regarding said voucher;

generating said voucher, said step of generating including the step of printing information regarding said voucher; and

transmitting information regarding said voucher from said remote voucher generation device to said host.

2. The method in accordance with Claim 1 including the steps of accepting said voucher at a gaming machine and verifying said voucher, said verifying step including the step of transmitting first information regarding said voucher from said gaming machine to said host, and transmitting second information said remote voucher generation device to said host.

3. The method in accordance with Claim 1 including the step of storing said record at said remote voucher generation device.

4. The method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said step of generating said voucher data includes generating a unique voucher code associated with a particular voucher.

5. The method in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said voucher code is printed on said

voucher.

6. The method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said record includes a unique identification code for said voucher.

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7. The method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said record includes a monetary value associated with said voucher.

8. The method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said record includes a redeemable value of said voucher.

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9. A voucher generation and accounting system comprising:
at least one gaming device adapted to accept credit from a player, present a game for play by a player, and pay an award in the event a winning event is achieved by play of the game, said at least one gaming device adapted to receive a voucher representing credit;

at least one host with which said at least one gaming device is associated, said at least one host arranged to transmit information to said at least one gaming device and receive information from said at least one gaming device;

at least one voucher issuance device, said voucher issuance device adapted to generate data regarding a voucher, print said voucher, and create a record regarding said voucher, said at least one voucher issuance device in communication with said at least one host for providing voucher information for use by said host in verifying a voucher presented to said at least one gaming device.

10. The gaming system in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said at least one voucher issuance device includes a printing device.

11. The gaming system in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said at least one voucher issuance device includes a voucher acceptor and a coin and currency dispenser adapted to dispense coins and currency representing a value of an accepted voucher.

12. The gaming system in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said at least one voucher issuance device is located remote from said at least one gaming machine.

13. A method of utilizing a voucher in a gaming system comprising:
providing at least one gaming machine, said gaming machine adapted to receive a voucher representative of a credit value for playing a game;
providing at least one host;
providing a communication link between said at least one host and said at least one gaming machine;
providing at least one remote voucher generation device;
generating information regarding a voucher;
issuing said voucher from said voucher generation device, said voucher including said generated information;
creating a record regarding said voucher;
providing a communication link between said voucher generation device and said at least one host; and

transmitting voucher information from said voucher generation device to said host in order to verify a voucher presented to said at least one gaming machine.

14. The method in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said voucher information is transmitted from said voucher generation device to said host in response to a signal to said host from said at least one gaming machine regarding said presentation of said voucher.

15. The method in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said step of creating a record comprises generating a file containing information regarding said voucher.

16. The method in accordance with Claim 13 including the step of storing said file at a data storage device associated with said voucher generation device.

17. The method in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said communication link between said voucher generation device and said host is only established in response to a signal from said host.

18. The method in accordance with Claim 13 including the steps of locating said at least one gaming machine and said at least one host are located at a first location and locating said at least one remote voucher generation device remote therefrom.

19. The method in accordance with Claim 13 further including the step of verifying the authenticity of said voucher.

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20. The method in accordance with Claim 19 wherein said record includes a unique voucher identification and said verifying step comprises comparing a voucher identification of said presented voucher with said voucher identification of said record.

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